AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-24 without prejudice to the subject matter therein and add the following claims 25-46:

1.–24. (Cancelled)

1   25.   (New) A method comprising:

2   identifying a set of systems of a plurality of systems, wherein

3   each system in the set of systems meets a requirement for hosting a first application of

4   a plurality of applications, and

5   the systems form at least one cluster; and

6   when the set of systems is empty,

7   using a respective priority for each of the applications for identifying a resource to

8   free, wherein

9   the resource is one of a plurality of resources, and

10   each resource is associated with at least one of the systems.

1   26.   (New) The method of claim 25 wherein

2   the identifying the resource further comprises

3   using a respective capacity for each of the systems for identifying the resource.

1   27.   (New) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

2   freeing the resource such that an associated system of the systems meets the requirement for

3   hosting the first application.

1   28.   (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

2   starting the first application on the associated system.

1   29.   (New) The method of claim 27 wherein

2   the freeing the resource comprises stopping a second application that is using the resource,

3   wherein the second application has a lower respective priority than a respective

4   priority of the first application.

1   30.   (New) The method of claim 27 wherein

2   the freeing the resource comprises moving a second application that is using the resource to a

3   second system of the systems, wherein

4   the second application has a lower respective priority than a respective priority of the

5   first application.

1   31.   (New) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

2   determining that the first application is to be started.

1   32.   (New) The method of claim 31 wherein

2   the determining that the first application is to be started comprises

3   detecting that the first application failed.

1   33.   (New) The method of claim 31 wherein

2   the determining that the first application is to be started comprises

3   comparing a respective priority of the first application with each of a set of respective

4   priorities for a set of the applications running on the systems, and

5   determining that the first application is to be started when the respective priority of

6   the first application is higher than one of the set of respective priorities for the

7   set of applications running on the systems.

1   34.   (New) The method of claim 25 wherein

2   the identifying the set of systems comprises

3   including a selected system in the set of systems when the selected system meets a

4   prerequisite for the first application.

1   35.   (New) The method of claim 25 wherein

2   the identifying the set of systems comprises

3   including a selected system in the set of systems when the first application does not

4   exceed a limit for the selected system.

1   36.   (New) An apparatus comprising:

2   an identifying module to identify a set of systems of a plurality of systems, wherein

3   each system in the set of systems meets a requirement for hosting a first application of

4   a plurality of applications, and

5   the systems form at least one cluster; and

6   a priority module to use a respective priority for each of the applications for

7   identifying a resource to free when the set of systems is empty, wherein

8   the resource is one of a plurality of resources, and

9   each resource is associated with at least one of the systems.

1   37.   (New) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein

2   the priority module further uses a respective capacity for each of the systems for identifying

3   the resource.

1   38.   (New) The apparatus of claim 36 further comprising:

2   a freeing module to free the resource such that an associated system of the systems meets the

3   requirement for hosting the first application.

1   39.   (New) The apparatus of claim 38 further comprising:

2   a starting module to start the first application on the associated system.

1   40.   (New) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein

2   the freeing module comprises a stopping module to stop a second application that is using the

3   resource, wherein

4   the second application has a lower respective priority than a respective priority of the

5   first application.

1   41.   (New) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein

2   the freeing module comprises

3   a moving module to move a second application that is using the resource to a second

4   system of the systems, wherein

5   the second application has a lower respective priority than a respective priority

6   of the first application.

1   42.   (New) The apparatus of claim 36 further comprising:

2   a determining module to determine that the first application is to be started.

1   43.   (New) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein

2   the determining module comprises

3   a detecting module to detect that the first application failed.

1   44.   (New) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein

2   the determining module comprises

3	a comparing module to compare a respective priority of the first application with each
4	of a set of respective priorities for a set of the applications running on the
5	systems, wherein
6	the determining module determines that the first application is to be started
7	when the respective priority of the first application is higher than one
8	of the set of respective priorities for the set of applications running on
9	the systems.

1	45. (New) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein
2	the identifying module comprises
3	an including module to include a selected system in the set of systems when the
4	selected system meets a prerequisite for the first application.

1	46. (New) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein
2	the identifying module comprises
3	an including module to include a selected system in the set of systems when the first
4	application does not exceed a limit for the selected system.